out of the import of duty free cotton will be passed on to the handloom sector.

(c) The Government of India is implementing several schemes for promoting the sale of handloom products, such as:—

(i) Organisation of Handloom Export in major cities of the country;

(ii) Providing share capital assistance to State Handloom organisations for widening their market base and opening of more retail outlets;

(iii) Opening of handloom marketing complexes through the National Handloom Development Corporation;

(iv) Giving assistance for National Design Collection Programmes for the promotion of unique weaves and designs through exhibition-*cum*-sales;

(v) Purchasing handloom fabrics for Central Government use on the basis of Single Tender System;

(vi) In order to promote sale of handloom products in other countries Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) has been organising buyers and sellers meet, sales-*cum*-study tours by sponsoring individual exporters, participation in international fairs and exhibitions and providing publicity. Experts/ consultants of international repute has been invited to enlighten our exporters of emerging trends of fashion and designs.

Illegal Arms Manufacturing Factories

716. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal arms manufacturing factories which were unearthed between August and December, 1987, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Action for infringement of Arms Act, 1959 is to be taken by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to whom powers in this behalf have been delegated.

2. According to available information during the period from 1-8-1987 to 31st December, 1987, no activities connected with illegal manufacture of arms and ammunitions were unearthed in the following States/ Union Territories:—

States	Union Territories
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. A & N Islands
2. Assam	2. Chandigarh
3. Arunachal Pradesh	3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4. Goa	4. Daman & Diu
5. Gujarat	5. Delhi
6. Haryana	6. Lakshadweep

States	Union Territories
7. Himachal Pradesh	7. Pondicherry
8. Jammu & Kashmir	
9. Karnataka	
10. Kerala	
11. Maharashtra	
12. Manipur	
13. Meghalaya	
14. Mizoram	
15. Nagaland	
16. Orissa	
17. Punjab	
18. Sikkim	
19. Tamil Nadu	
20. Tripura	
21. West Bengal	

3. In respect of the remaining States, during the above period over 130 illegal arms manufacturing factories were unearthed and over 220 persons were reported to have been arrested and proceeded against.

Sale of imported edible oil by STC in open market

717. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed S.T.C. to sell imported edible oil in the open market;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that prices of edible oil have fallen due to the arrival of imported edible oil in the open market; and

(d) what are the reasons for which Government have not increased the imported edible oil quota of the different States instead of selling it in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had permitted open sale of imported edible oil with a view to containing the prices in the indigenous market.

(c) The availability of imported edible oil for open market sale has, to some extent, contained the price in the open market.

(d) It is not advisable to increase the edible oil quota of the States at a subsidised price beyond certain limits, since too large a supply of oil at subsidized prices may adversely affect the prices of indigenous edible oils, causing hardship to farmers.